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## THE STATE OF EDUCATION

IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *Analectic Magazine* for the present month (April, 1817) contains a view of the state of education in America. The writer does not allow that there is established any where in the United States a good system of education, except in New England; more particularly as it regards common schools. His information, however, appears to be very defective; and we think he manifests too much precipitancy in drawing general conclusions upon a very slender stock of facts in relation to the subject of which he treats.

From this writer's statement we have made the subjoined abstract with respect to the foundation of colleges, their endowments, &c. in different states of the Union. We have done this principally with a view of drawing from intelligent men, better acquainted with particulars, a more accurate account of the seminaries of education instituted in different parts of the country. We have not much confidence in the correctness of the article in the *Analectic Magazine* from which we make this abstract, because, in some instances, there is an evident want of recent information, and in others positive errors. Of the latter we can point out two ourselves: one, which states that the Rev. Mr. Dittbourg is president of St. Mary's college at Baltimore; the other, which represents the revenue of Athens college, in Ohio, as amounting to \$30,000. In a letter from one of the trustees of that institution, we are assured that the revenue of the college at Athens is only \$3,000. This, however, may be a typographical mistake: but as it relates to the Rev. Mr. Dubourg, he is a bishop at New Orleans, and we doubt whether he is at this time in America. The Rev. Mr. Brute is the principal of St. Mary's college. A similar mistake occurs with regard to the Rev. Mr. Knox, who is no longer president of Baltimore College. We invite, for publication in the *National Register*, the communications of well informed individuals on this interesting topic.

### ABSTRACT.

The first college in America was founded by John Harvard, who, in the year 1638, made a donation for that purpose of 777l. The present annual revenue is more than \$40,000: \$10,000 paid by the state; the remainder derived from

vested funds and tuition money. Upwards of 20 professors: 13 constantly employed in teaching students in the ordinary way; 7 deliver occasional courses of lectures on medicine, natural and moral philosophy, history, theology, and various other scientific subjects. It has a professorship of Greek. Average number of students of late between 280 and 300, some from the southern states, but mostly from Massachusetts: philosophical apparatus extensive: library considerable. The course of studies pursued in all the grammar schools of Massachusetts, is directed to the preparation of students for Harvard University, the theological doctrines of which are Arian.

In Rhode Island a college was founded in 1764. It is called Brown University, Nicholas Brown, esq. having made a donation to it of \$5,000—first located at Warren; afterwards transferred to Providence: has a good philosophical apparatus; a library of about 3,000 volumes; professorships of law, of oriental languages, of logic and moral philosophy, of anatomy and surgery, of chymistry, and of botany and materia medica: a majority of its corporation are Baptists: the number of its students about 100.

An attempt was made to found a college in Connecticut in 1654, but it failed, the institution having become extinct in the year 1664. Yale college was founded at Saybrook in 1700, and was removed to New Haven in 1717: it acquired its name from Elihu Yale, esq. its chief benefactor: its professorships are, one of materia medica and botany; one of the theory and practice of physic, surgery, and obstetrics: one of mathematics and natural philosophy; one of chymistry, pharmacy, and mineralogy; one of languages and ecclesiastical history; and one of anatomy and physiology: number of students from 270 to 300: the library contains about 6,000 volumes: philosophical and chymical apparatus complete: it has in its charge a mineralogical cabinet of 26,500 specimens. The theological doctrines of Yale are Calvinistic.

Dartmouth College, named after the earl of Dartmouth, who was one of its chief benefactors, was founded at Hanover, in New Hampshire, in the year 1769: it has three professors; one of civil and ecclesiastical history; one of mathematics and natural philosophy; and one of languages: number of students about 170, besides about 60 in the grammar school, and the same number in the medical department: has a good philosophical and chymical apparatus: a library of about 4,000 volumes: its funds are 80,000 acres

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of land, yielding nearly \$1,340 of annual revenue: tuition money \$1,660.

A college was established in Burlington, Vermont, in 1791: it commenced with a donation of \$6,000: the legislature has since granted it about 30,000 acres of land: Middlebury College, in that state, was founded in 1800; it has in general about 120 students. The legislature of Vermont are now taking measures for the establishment of a university at Montpelier, upon a former reservation of 33,000 acres of land appropriated for that purpose. There are academies in almost every county of that commonwealth: grammar schools in every county have been established by law, and are supported at the public charge.

Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, in the District of Maine, was established in the year 1795, and received its name from the hon. James Bowdoin, who gave the institution \$10,000, and bequeathed his library to it: the state of Massachusetts has made it a donation of five townships: it has nearly 60 students. There are seven academies in Maine, all endowed with liberal grants of land.

King's (now Columbia) College, was founded in New York, in the year 1754: it has a faculty of arts and one of physic: its funds yield a revenue of \$3,850. Union College, in Schenectady, was incorporated in 1794; the funds of which, in 1796, were upwards of \$42,000, besides 1,604 acres of land, and the legislature have since granted it a lottery of \$90,000: it has three professors: one of mathematics and natural philosophy, and one of each of the dead languages. Hamilton College has been lately established in the western part of New York.

Princeton College, in New Jersey, was chartered about the year 1738: it has three professors: about 130 students: a library of about 300 volumes: amount of revenue not far from \$3,000. A college was established at New Brunswick in 1770, by the ministers of the Dutch church, who appropriated about \$1,200 for that purpose: it has been converted into a purely theological seminary, and has but one professor: the students are, mostly, the children of Dutch emigrants: the library small, but well selected.

In Pennsylvania there are six colleges—Dickens College, at Carlisle; the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia; Franklin College, at Lancaster; Jefferson College, at Cannonsburg; Washington College, seven miles from the same place; and Allegheny College, at Meadville. Dickinson College has five professors: a good philosophical apparatus: library, about 3,000 volumes: a revenue arising from 10,000 acres of land, and \$10,666 in funded certificates. The University of Pennsylvania is divided into three

departments: the college, the medical, and the grammar schools; about 50 students in the first; 500 in the second; and 100 in the last; in all about 650 students: its revenue about 2,365; philosophical apparatus the most complete in the United States. Washington and Jefferson Colleges are in the neighborhood of each other: funds of the former, small; library and philosophical apparatus pretty good. Washington College has funds to the amount of \$2,000: average number of students in each of these Colleges, about 60.

A College has been lately established at Athens, in Ohio, with landed funds yielding a revenue of 3,000 dollars.

Washington College, at Chestertown, in Maryland, was established in 1782: empowered to hold property yielding 6,000*l.* a year: a subsequent grant of revenue yielding 1,250*l.* St. John's College was founded at Annapolis during the same year; empowered to hold property worth 9,000*l.* per annum, together with a revenue of 1,750*l.* These two Colleges constituted the University of Maryland. In the year 1785, the Methodists established a College at Abington, in Harford county, but the building was consumed by fire: they then erected an edifice at Baltimore, which was also burnt. There are two colleges at Baltimore, both chartered; that of St. Mary's, under the patronage of the Jesuits, and enriched by liberal donations from Louisiana, from Canada, and Europe; supposed to be on the decline; chiefly, it is presumed, from the institution of Baltimore College in the same city. The legislature of Maryland not long since, made a grant of \$25,000, for the support of common schools.

William and Mary College, at Williamsburgh, in Virginia, was founded in 1691: annual revenue before the revolution, about 3,000*l.* has six professors: a complete philosophical apparatus; and quite a large library: in 1787 there were but 30 students: the legislature made it a liberal donation not long ago. Considerable exertions are making to improve the condition of this institution. Hampden Sidney College was founded soon after the war: its funds small: students never more than 60: it has now become a school of theology. Washington College, at Lexington, Virginia, has a collegiate charter, and very respectable endowments. Gen. Washington bequeathed to it 100 shares in the James River Company, worth about 7,000*l.*: number of students seldom more than 60.

Transylvania University, at Lexington, Kentucky, is represented as little better than an humble grammar-school, of about 30 students: revenue \$2,700: library of nearly 1,500 volumes: a philosophical apparatus.

In Tennessee, there are Washington College, in the county of the same name; and Greenville College in Green county; there is also a seminary of learning in Cumberland, and one in Knox, county; the two latter endowed by Congress with 100,000 acres of land.

In 1789, a University was founded at Chapel-Hill, Orange county, North Carolina: it has about 100 students; two professors and three tutors.

South Carolina has chartered five Colleges: one at Charleston; one at Winnsborough; one at Cambridge; one near Beaufort; and one at Columbia: the three first very little superior to common grammar-schools: Beaufort College has a fund of about \$7,000. South Carolina College, established by the legislature at Columbia, in 1801, has an income of \$6,000: 150 students: good philosophical apparatus: library of about 3,000 well selected volumes.

The legislature of Georgia has made provision for establishing a college at Athens, in Clark county, and an academy in every county, all united under the name of the University of Georgia.

#### DR. WARDEN'S NAPOLEON.

(Continued from page 248.)

*Temper of Napoleon.—Las Cases, said*

"I was at St. Cloud, when captain Mieuclieuse waited upon the emperor on his return from England. He had been taken in the Didon, by an English frigate, the Phenix, commanded by capt. Baker. On my introducing him, his majesty said, in a very harsh tone of voice, 'So, sir, you surrendered your colors to an enemy of inferior force: how can you answer for your conduct?'—'Sire,' replied Mieuclieuse, 'I did my utmost; my men would fight no longer.' 'If so,' answered the emperor, 'when an officer is disobeyed by his men, he should cease to command: therefore begone.'—About six months after this mortifying reception, and when his conduct had been enquired into, he was appointed to the command of a squadron at Venice.

"The emperor had a confidential secretary, a man of superior talents, who was blessed with a disposition so mild, and a temper so smooth, that it was almost impossible to trouble the one or to ruffle the other. The impetuosity of his imperial master, with the uncertain and unreasonable hours when he was frequently summoned to his duty, and the calm preparation in which he was ever found to perform it, sufficiently proves the character that has been given him. Napoleon seldom took a pen in his hand; his general practice was to dictate to others, which he did with the rapidity of thought: and if an idea struck him in the middle of the night, the secretary in waiting was instantly summoned to transmit it to paper. This officer had happened, on one of these hasty occasions, to have mistaken an expression as it was dictated to him, and, for this accidental mistake, was dismissed from the presence in terms of the severest displeasure. The next morning the emperor sent for his secretary; and when the latter

entered the saloon with his usual placid and undisturbed countenance, the emperor, with rather an angry look, demanded of him if he had slept the preceding night? and, on being informed he had enjoyed his usual hours of comfortable repose, this reply was given:—'then you have been more fortunate than me; so take your pen,' and a decree for a very liberal pension to the secretary was instantly dictated."

*Napoleon as a lover.*

Among other proofs of his more tender nature, it was said he was sincerely attached to Maria Louisa; and it was added, a fond look from her eye would command any thing from his heart.—(Remember, it is a Frenchman who speaks.) At the same time it was avowed, that though she might possess his more permanent affection, her majesty was known to suspect the possibility of his straying into an occasional infidelity.

It is indeed very well known, that the English ladies whom he saw from the gangway of the Bellerophon, drew from him very animated expressions of admiration. Miss Brown, a daughter of general Brown, is said to have fixed his exclusive attention, while she was in a situation to remain an object whose features could be distinguished.

*Fate of Baron de Colai.*

[It may be recollected that this Polish nobleman had been employed to carry off Ferdinand the seventh, of Spain, from the custody of Napoleon.]

The baron, it seems, had arrived in safety at the point to which he was destined, but almighty love appears to have demanded his first attentions. A lady, to whom he was ardently attached in Paris, was an irresistible object of attraction, and to that city he bent his first steps: but he had not been two hours within its walls before some of Savary's myrmidons seized the unfortunate and imprudent Pole, stripped off his clothes, with their valuable concealments, and consigned him to a prison.—So far the stratagem failed of success: but Bonaparte wished to know whether the imprisoned monarch was privy to it: A proper person was therefore selected to personate the baron, and with all his false papers and rich clothes, introduced himself to Ferdinand; but though the guards were purposely withdrawn, to give all possible facility for his escape, the imprisoned king dared not encounter the danger of the attempt.

*Napoleon's medical notions.*

He seemed to entertain a very strong prejudice against bleeding, which he called the Sangrado practice, nor did he fail to treat our first conversations on the subject with a degree of humor and pleasantry, which proved that the great events of his life had not driven from his recollection the solemn satire of Le Sage. He urged the propriety of sparing the precious fluid, under an apprehension of its deficiency, when, as he conceived, the food on board a ship was not sufficiently nutritious to restore it. A Frenchman, he exclaimed, would never submit to the discipline of the Spanish doctor. And on my observing that the French did not eat quite so much beef as Englishmen, he peremptorily denied the fact:—"to the full as much," he said, "but they cook it differently."—He was,



however, open to conviction; and when he had been made to understand the general health of our fleet, and had witnessed the good effects of the practice which he had so forcibly reprobated and ridiculed, he no longer argued against it; but always mentioned it with some facetious observation. "On meeting me, he would apply his fingers to the bend of the opposite arm and ask—"well, how many have you bled to-day?" Nor did he fail to exclaim, when any of his own people were indisposed—"O bleed him, bleed him!—To the powerful lancet with him: that's the infallible remedy." He had, however, seen the good effects on madame Bertrand. That lady was attacked with an inflammatory fever, when she submitted to lose two pounds of blood, as well as to abstain from wine and all animal food: but the Sangrado system effected her cure, and confirmed the proselytism of her emperor to the practice.

*Napoleon's temperament and health.*

His own spontaneous account of himself is, that he is very passionate; but that the violence of his disposition soon subsides not only into tranquillity, but into coldness and indifference. I have never heard that, in speaking of his constitution and uncommon state of health, he ever hinted at the advances of age, or calculated the probabilities of his enjoying length of life. He has indeed been known to say, and to repeat the opinion, that he ought to have died on the day when he entered Moscow; as he then had arrived at the summit of his military glory. It has been even said by some of his few surrounding friends, that he should himself have determined not to survive it.

The conversation afforded me, as I thought, rather a fair opportunity of asking him, if his sleep was generally sound; I felt at the time, that it was an adventurous question; nor would it have surprised me, if he had turned away without giving me an answer; but, with a look more expressive of sorrow than displeasure, he replied, "No: from my cradle I have been an indifferent sleeper."

*The empress Josephine.*

I shall begin this letter by introducing a very interesting person to your attention; and who, in our various quarter-deck conversations, had not been hitherto mentioned. It was the empress Josephine. Her name happened to occur; she became the spontaneous subject of very animated eulogiums; when she was represented as possessing a sweetness of disposition, an elegance of manners, and a certain melody of voice that irresistibly charmed every one, without any exception as to situation or capacity, who were admitted to her presence. The sudden death of this excellent lady was very generally lamented, and is attributed to a very extraordinary circumstance, and a very exalted personage. I will relate the event to you in the words, as far as memory serves, in which the count de las Cases conveyed it as an undeniable fact to me. Josephine, it seems, had so far won the admiration and high esteem of the emperor Alexander, that his imperial majesty used to dedicate many of his leisure hours to the pleasure of her fascinating conversation. His visits were not only frequent but continual during his stay at Paris. Her state of health was but indifferent, and on some particular occasion, her physician had prescribed medicines of a nature that requir-

ed the utmost care and precaution, and an absolute confinement to her chamber: but, at this time, the emperor paid one of his visits, when her respect for him rendered her incautious, and she received the imperial guest in the usual manner. They walked, during the time of his stay, in the gardens of Mal-Maison; and the consequence of this promenade was fatal: she was seized with a violent inflammation in the lungs, which defied all medical assistance, and in a few days she was no more.

An order which was issued by the convention to disarm the citizens, occasioned the introduction of Bonaparte, then a general, and high in military command, to Josephine. Her husband was said to have suffered eighteen months before the circumstance about to be mentioned. He had left a son, Eugene Beauharnois, at this time a most interesting youth, who took an opportunity to address the general on the parade, and solicit his father's sword; which, according to the late order, had been removed from his mother's residence.—Bonaparte, charmed by the request, and the animated modesty with which it was made, instantly granted it. The mother wrote a letter the following day to thank the general for his kindness to her son. This grateful attention produced a visit on his part, and the lady not being at home, she sent a note of apology and particular invitation.—An interview of course followed: He was instantly captivated, and in six weeks they were married. It has been generally thought, I believe, that the second marriage did not obliterate his regard for her: and it is here asserted, by those who were qualified to form a correct opinion of the matter, that he would have given more evident proofs of his regard, if the jealousy of the second empress had not interposed to prevent them.

*Napoleon as a friend.*

Having induced you, perhaps, to suppose that Napoleon was susceptible of love, I shall introduce madame Bertrand to persuade you, that he is not without a capacity for friendship. She related, in a very impressive manner, to us, the last interview with Duroc, duke of Friuli, and his afflicted sovereign.

That officer, who, as it will appear, stood high in his master's regard and confidence, was struck by a cannon-ball, as he was reconnoitring the position for a night encampment of the army, and his bowels fell to the ground; when he had the extraordinary resolution to collect and replace them with his own hands, on the spot. In this hopeless state he was removed to a neighboring cottage, where he survived twenty-four hours. A mortification soon took place, and a very offensive smell began to issue from his body, which continued to increase. After he had been some time in this state, the emperor came, to visit and console him. The dying man, after expressing his acknowledgments to his master for this gracious act of kindness, which he accompanied with sentiments of the utmost loyalty and devotion, recommended his wife and daughter to the imperial protection; and then entreated him to depart lest the effluvia proceeding from him might be attended with infection. She represented Napoleon's grief as perfectly romantic, and stated as a fact, that he lay, for it is not to be supposed that he slept, a whole night on the stone which covered the grave of his friend.

She also mentioned that he possessed an equal attachment to *Isaures*, duke of Montebello, who was killed at the battle of Esling, when a similar scene of affliction and regard took place! That brave officer had been obliged to submit to the amputation of one leg just below the knee, and the other just above the ankle. Buonaparte and Bertrand visited him in this unhappy condition, on the left bank of the Danube. Bertrand was endeavoring to console him by comparing his situation to that of the brave Caffarelli, when he, with a certain eagerness of expression, thus interrupted him:—"The attachment of Caffarelli to the emperor was cold, when compared with the affection which I feel."

#### *Crossing the line.*

The ceremony of crossing the line, a day of jubilee to the voyagers of every maritime nation, is so well known, that it would be superfluous to give a minute description of it; though more than usual ceremony was displayed on the present occasion: and it must be acknowledged that the French party submitted with the best grace, that is to say, with the most perfect good humour, to the novel freedoms of the marine Saturnalia:—Nor had the Neptune and Amphitrite of the day any cause of complaint. They were seated in a boat filled with water, the throne a match-tub, and the sceptre a painter's brush. They were surrounded by their Tritons, consisting of fifty or sixty of the most athletic men in the ship, naked to the waist, and bedaubed with various colors, each bearing a pail of salt water, to drench, more or less, the subjects of the briny god. The license of the pastime may be imagined, when captain Ross, who commanded the ship, received the contents of one of them with perfect pleasantry.

Bertrand, Montholon, Gourgon, and De las Cases, with all the domestics, presented themselves to the temporary, but potent Neptune, and received, with the necessary cheerfulness, their share of his ablutions. The two former led their children forward, each of them presenting from their extended little hands a double Napoleon as their offering to the presiding deity of the deep. A sea-boy sang the song of "The snug little Island," some of whose lines were not very complimentary to the enemies of Great Britain, but net an unpleasant look was produced by them. The ladies viewed the scene from an elevated position, and appeared to be equally amused and astonished at the festivities of it. Neptune was rather disappointed that Napoleon did not make his appearance, though he acknowledged the sovereign dignity, by sending his tribute.—In short, harmony prevailed to the close of this festive medley.

#### *Napoleon's intended marriage with a Russian princess.*

This circumstance seems to be acknowledged here; and it is said, moreover, that the failure of this negotiation arose from the bigotry of the lady's royal mother, who insisted on the establishment of a Greek church in the palace of the Thuilleries.—I merely state it as a little article of our political chit-chat, for your political amusement.

#### *Napoleon's laughter: the children, &c.*

He sometimes smiles, but I believe seldom laughs.—I have never observed, when laughter has prevailed around him, that he has caught the

pleasant infection. The interesting children on board, who amuse every body, do not attract his attention. There is a large good-tempered Newfoundland dog who is a frequent and rather a rude playfellow of these urchins; and in a situation where no active entertainments are exhibited, the interludes of these performers afford no small degree of amusement to those around them. But they have never won a smile, that I have observed, from the ex-imperial spectator.—Once, indeed, when Bertrand was in conversation with his master, the count's little girl intruded upon it, with a story which all her father's prohibitions could not silence. On this occasion Napoleon took her by the hand, heard out her little tale, and at the conclusion kissed her. But this very uncommon attention was probably paid to the child as the only mode of getting rid of her, which might not have been painful to the feelings of the father.

Frequent attempts are made on the loyalty of the little Bertrands, by courting them, in very seducing ways, to say *vive le roi*, and *vive Louis dix huit*. But the two eldest are loyal children, and true, and never fail to reply with *vive l'empereur*. The youngest of the three was, however, at length, bribed by irresistible sweetmeats, to say, *vive Louis dix huit*: for he, like other cautious politicians, could not be persuaded to go all lengths, and add, *vive le roi*. But this daring defection never failed to be followed by the reproaches of his uncorruptible brother and sister. This charming boy is said to bear a strong resemblance to the young Napoleon, and has acquired the title among us of John Bull, which he triumphantly retains: and if asked who he is, appears pleased to exclaim, *Jean Bull*.

#### *Napoleon's Sagacity.*

I shall just mention that count Bertrand, in the history which he gave of the German campaign in 1807, took occasion to observe that Buonaparte had very seldom employed spies. He appeared, in the course of his warfare, to know but one instance of a person being engaged by his master in that capacity, which was in Italy; at the same time he acknowledged that the services performed by him were of considerable importance. In speaking also of Napoleon's talents, for which he uniformly avows the most profound admiration, he expressed himself to the following effect:—"When I was first admitted to the emperor's confidence, he employed me on a particular service, and no zeal was wanting, on my part, to execute it; but I found it, as I thought, to be impracticable; and I did not hesitate to submit my opinion to him that it was so. It may be so to you, he replied, but in what manner did you proceed? I accordingly explained the means I had pursued. You have failed, he said, in following your plans: now see what success you will have in pursuing mine. These he explained.—I adhered to them of course, and succeeded. I then determined never again to suppose that any commands of his could fail of being fulfilled; and in future operations which he intrusted to me, the idea of impossibility never occurred to my thoughts in the performance of my duty, or was forced upon me by my experience in the failure of it."

#### *Napoleon's arrival at St. Helena, &c.*

Napoleon did not leave his cabin for a full hour after the ship had anchored in the bay; however, when the deck became clear, he made his appear-

ance, and ascended the poop ladder, from which he could examine every gun that bristles at the mouth of James Valley, in the centre of which the town of that name, and the only one in the island, is situate.—While he stood there, I watched his countenance with the most observant attention, and it betrayed no particular sensation: he looked as any other man would look at a place which he beheld for the first time.—I shall also take this opportunity to mention that during the whole voyage, from the moment the Northumberland set sail from England to its arrival at St. Helena, I never saw any change in the placid countenance and unassuming manners of our distinguished shipmate; nor did I hear of a discontented look, or a peevish expression, being remarked by any other person in the ship. The ladies, indeed, discovered some distress on the first view of their rocky cage; but their general conduct on the occasion, displayed a degree of self-possession which was not expected of them.

The first object of the admiral was to make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of Napoleon and his suite, and the lieutenant-governor's house was appropriated for that purpose, till a proper place could be prepared for his fixed residence. It was not, therefore, till the 17th that they disembarked.—After sun-set, on that day, when the inhabitants of the town, wearied out in waiting for the spectacle of Buonaparte's landing, had retired to their homes, he, according to the wish he had expressed, passed unobserved to the house where he was to pass the first night as an inhabitant of St. Helena.

#### *Napoleon's discontent, &c.*

I have not heard of any instance of his discontent but on the following occasion.—Since he has been at the *Bivars*, an officer of captain's rank is constantly in attendance there, and becomes answerable for his person. This, I understand, has occasioned remonstrances to the admiral, who has not thought proper to answer them with any relaxation of this duty.

I have since seen, in the English newspapers, accounts of his playing cards for sugar-plums, being impetuous with a child, and engaging in something like monkey tricks; for which there is not the least foundation of any kind.

On his removal to Longwood, certain limits were assigned him for exercise; around which a cordon of centinels were stationed. While he continues within the circle he experiences no additional vigilance; but when he ventures beyond, an officer is on duty to attend him. The latter circumstance, which he considers as irksome, disposes him to confine himself in a great measure to the grounds of his mansion.

#### *Madame Bertrand's gallantry. A dinner party, &c.*

About six in the evening I reached *Hutgate*, a small house on the Longwood road, about a mile from the principal residence and the habitation of count Bertrand. It consists of two small apartments below, and the same number above. But in this cottage, health reigns, the children are charming, and care seems to be banished from it.—A volume might be filled with all I know of this family. Most of my spare hours during the voyage were dedicated to reading English with the marshal; and, in return, he gave an history of some of the campaigns in which he had served. He would often say, "You are de bed master: you will hear

all, and speak to me none." Napoleon, when enquiring after me, during the passage, would distinguish me by the title of *Bertrand's friend*. Madame insisted upon my dismounting from my horse and accompanying her in the carriage to Longwood, as her husband had gone on before. It was now growing dusk, and as we approached the house, we saw her emperor, as she always called him, and Bertrand in conversation close to the road-side. "Now," said the lady, "let us surprise them: show yourself at the carriage window as we pass; when they will fancy a gallant, and it will remind them of Paris tricks." We passed them at a quick pace; I obeyed my instructions, and, having handed the countess from the carriage, she left me to go and explain who the stranger was. In a few minutes I received a message from Napoleon himself, with an invitation to dinner. I very readily accepted it, as you may imagine; and was rather pleasantly surprised at it; as he had for some time confined his guests to his own suite. I had no means of presenting myself, but in my riding equipments, and in such guise I made my entre. General Montholon, in full dress, received me in the anti-chamber, and introduced me to an adjoining room, where Buonaparte was engaged at chess with the count Bertrand. He received me with common salutations, very civilly expressed, and on my taking a position behind his chair, as if to observe the game, he continued the contest. There was little conversation among the party in the room, and that was carried on in a kind of respectful whisper, which, as I knew not how to adopt, was interrupted at times by the thorough bass of my answers to the questions which were addressed to me.

A very short time before dinner was announced, general Montholon whispered in my ear, that I was to take my seat at table between the emperor and the grand marshal. Here are honors for you, and I will give you leave to figure your plain, humble, unassuming friend, in his elevated station. I cannot say that my situation resembled that of Sancho Pancha, because every dish was at my service; but a piece of roast beef or a leg of mutton, with caper sauce, would have afforded a relief to my appetite, which has never been familiarized with ragouts and fricassees. I had Napoleon on my right, and the marshal on my left; and there was a vacant chair, that had the air of ceremonious emptiness, as a reserved seat for Maria Louisa. A bottle of claret and a decanter of water was placed by each plate: but there was no drinking to each other at dinner; and if you did not help yourself during the time it lasted, the opportunity would be lost, as the wine vanished with the eatables. The service of porcelain far exceeds in beauty whatever of that kind I have beheld. The silver plate is massive, and decorated with eagles in curious abundance: the gold service appeared in the desert. The entertainment lasted about an hour, and so frequent were the questions of my host, that from the perplexity I suffered in conjuring up answers to them, I scarce knew what I eat, or what I drank. I will endeavor to give you a general specimen of his convivial inquiries.

#### *Napoleon's medical and metaphysical inquiries, &c.*

Have you visited general Gourgond? Yes, general, I came to Longwood for that purpose. How have you found him? Extremely ill. What is his disorder? Dysentery. Where is its seat? In the



intestines? What has been the cause? Heat of climate on a constitution peculiarly predisposed; but remove the cause and the effect will cease. Had he been bled in the first instance, it is probable that the disease would have been less violent. What remedy is now proposed? The functions of the liver and other viscera are deranged: to restore them, therefore, to a healthy action, it will be necessary to have recourse to mercury. That is a bad medicine. Experience has taught me the contrary. Did Hippocrates use it? I believe not. He had great faith in simples. Yet, he is considered as among the first physicians. He might, nevertheless, have derived great advantages from modern discoveries. Does not nature endeavor to expel morbid matter; and may not the present painful struggles be an effort of nature to rid herself of what is obnoxious? I have been taught to assist nature. And could not you do so without having recourse to this dangerous mineral? Experience has convinced me that mercury, provided it produces salivation, is infallible. Then go on with your mercury.

Have you lost many men on board the Northumberland? We have had the misfortune to lose several. Of what disease? Dysentery and inflammation of the liver. Have you examined them after death? Invariably. What was the appearance? Extensive suppurations of the liver in the one disease, and gangrene of the intestines in the other. What is death, or how do you define death? A suspension of the vital functions, the organs of respiration, and the action of the heart. When does the soul quit the body? That is a question I do not presume to answer with a precision which would satisfy you: for, in cases of suspended animation, and in syncope, man is to all appearance dead; yet, by artificial means, resuscitation is produced and life preserved. When do you suppose that the soul enters the body? I am not sufficiently skilled in metaphysics to give a satisfactory reply. The faculty of thought appears to be the dawning of the soul; and to whatever perfection reason attains, then the soul is most perfect, at least then man becomes the most responsible for his actions. Here the conversation ended to my great satisfaction, as it seemed to be taking a turn too profound for my philosophy: you will say, perhaps, that part of it was not calculated to whet the stomach of any one at dinner, but a medical man. I fancy, however, that, to your appetite, it will prove a savoury dish.

Napoleon now rose, and was followed by his party into a card room, when whist succeeded. He appears to be master of the game, but plays with a kind of carelessness and good humor, as if he preferred losing his money. He stayed half an hour longer this evening than was usual with him, and during that time he walked up and down the room, continuing his prevailing habit of asking questions. On his taking leave, Las Cases, in his good humored way, said, "Well, this has been a day of questions: indeed, I fear it must be a punishment for you to dine with us, it is so like undergoing an examination: but you may be assured, that your answers afford satisfaction, or you would not be troubled with so many questions."

*Napoleon inquisitive after news from Europe. His and Bertrand's remarks upon Marshal Ney.*

In a few days after, the arrival of a ship from England induced me to take a ride to the valley;

and, on my return in the evening, I was informed that Napoleon desired to see me in general Gourgond's apartment as soon as I returned; and there I found him waiting for me. On my entrance, the first question related to the progress of the general's disorder; when he suddenly changed the subject. "You have been at the town; and is the ship just arrived from England—if so, I suppose she brings letters and newspapers. Certainly; and I have looked over a file of the *Courier*. Is there no *Morning Chronicle*? I have not yet seen it. The other papers which I have just had a glimpse of, were the *Times* and a provincial paper. What is the news from France? I did but slightly glance over the French news. Be that as it may, you remember, I suppose, something of what you read; so let me hear it. I saw some articles respecting you; but the principal part of the French news which I had the opportunity of examining, related to the trial and sentence of marshal Ney.

Napoleon now advanced a step nearer to me, but without the least change of countenance: "What," said he, "marshal Ney has been sentenced to be shot." I replied "It was even so; he addressed the ministers of the allied sovereigns, but in vain: he urged in his defence the 12th article of the convention; he pleaded on his trial that he was deceived by you; that the proclamation of which he was accused, and made a part of the charges against him, was written by major general Bertrand; and that he was deceived by your report of Austria and England." Count Bertrand, who was in the room, quietly observed, that marshal Ney had a right to save himself if he could; and if fabricated stories would answer his purpose, he could not be blamed for employing them. But he added, "respecting the proclamation, it was an assertion equally false and ridiculous: marshal Ney could write himself, and wanted not my assistance." Napoleon made no comments on the account which had been given to him. One solitary expression, indeed, broke from him, and that was, "marshal Ney was a brave man."

*Napoleon's influence over general Gourgond, &c.*

General Gourgond's disorder assumed a very dangerous appearance; and the symptoms seemed to announce a fatal termination. His spirits, indeed, were so sunk, that he refused to take the only medicine that promised the least chance of relief; and even though it continued to be administered by contrivance and subterfuge, he must have become the prey of his melancholy apprehensions, if that voice which he dare not disobey had not urged a sharp, and as it proved, a saving remonstrance. "What ridiculous behavior is this," said Napoleon to him; "and what are these silly fears of your own creation, and which you appear to be fond of indulging, by refusing the means of dissipating them. How often have you faced death in the field of battle, without the least sensation of fear; and now you are resolved to yield to his power, as if you were afraid to resist him. What a childish obstinacy! Play the fool no longer, I beg of you, but submit to the remedies with cheerfulness, which can alone promote your restoration to health." This reproach softened the patient's obstinacy, he became submissive to the regimen prescribed, and recovered. Some short time after, Napoleon said to me, "Well, you doctors have performed wonders with

Gourgond: if, however, there had been a priest on the island, he would have discharged you both, and trusted alone to his treatment; but, fortunately for him, such a thing as a confessor was not to be found."

*Napoleon's visit to certain families at St. Helena.*

I am about to vary the scene, but I follow the track of the distinguished exile whenever I have the opportunity; and I now call you to attend him among the Arcadians of St. Helena. When he takes his exercise on horseback, he generally bends his way through a deep ravine, luxuriantly covered with vegetation and used for pasture. The road is narrow, the place lonely; and he, in a sentimental or poetical moment, had named it "*The valley of Silence*." On ascending this contracted pass, the eye is greeted, and on the first occasion might probably be surprised, by the residence of a farmer. Here the confined tourist, on his first excursion, determined to snatch a probable amusement by paying a visit. Fortunately for him, the family were taken by surprise; for the apprehension of such a guest would have emptied the house of its inhabitants. Master Legg, the tenant of the mansion, a plain honest countryman, met him at the door, when the extraordinary visitor, on the invitation which he received, dismounted from his horse, and, accompanied by the count de las Cases, entered the house, familiarly took his seat, and, as usual, began his interrogatories.

Have you a wife? Yes, and please you, *sir emperor*. Have you any children? Six. How much land have you got? A hundred acres. All capable of being cultivated? No, not one half. What profit does it bring you? Not a great deal; but it is much improved since you, Mr. emperor, came amongst us. Aye, how do you make that out? Why, you must know, *sir emperor*, we do not grow corn in this here island; and our green vegetables require a ready market. We have generally had to wait for the arrival of a fleet; and then, rat 'em, they would sometimes all spoil: but now, *sir general*, we have a prime sale for every article. Where is your wife? Dang it, and please you, I believe she is scared; for I see my children have all run out. Send for them, and let me be introduced. Pray, have you any good water? Yes, *sir*, and wine too, such as is to be had from the Cape.

The good woman's alarm had, by this time, subsided; and she was persuaded by her husband to make her appearance, and entered with every mark of respect, and some astonishment. Napoleon, De las Cases, the farmer and his wife, forming a *partie quarree*, for your philosophic and profound contemplation, sat down to four glasses of Cape wine; and when they were emptied, the visit concluded.

The good man and his family had been placed so much at their ease by the courteous demeanor of their unexpected guests, that the subsequent visits had them under no restraint; and even the little children used frequently to express their wishes by inquiring of their mother, "When will *Bossy* come and see us again?"

But there is another farmer, whose name is Robinson, who, like his neighbor Legg, occupies his acres of garden ground, which are divided into enclosures by fences of earth enlivened by the aloe and the prickly pear. Here, as in the former humble habitation, the honest simplicity of rural

life appears in all its native colors: but there is a flower of no common beauty that adorns the spot, a very pretty girl of about seventeen, the daughter of the owners of it. She is what we should call in Scotland "a very bonny lassie." Whether it was the primitive sincerity and innocent manners of these honest people, or the native charms of the rustic nymph, or the picture of contentment that they presented to their visitor, which attracted him, I shall not pretend to determine; but his visits became so frequent, that the relations of these good people in the town, recommended precaution respecting their daughter, who was then forbidden to make her appearance whenever the great man favored the farm with his visits: this circumstance he soon observed, and accordingly ceased to continue them.

*Napoleon his own historian.*

I do not recollect whether, in any of my former letters, I mentioned, from the authority of this gentleman, (Las Cases) who is the amanuensis of the historian, that Buonaparte was seriously and laboriously engaged in writing the *Annals of his Life*. I had already been informed by the same person, that the campaigns of Egypt and of Italy, and what he styles *My reign of an hundred days*, or some such title, were completed;\* and that the intermediate periods were in a progressive state. I therefore was looking forward to a very curious morning, and hugging myself on the approaching view of such manuscripts as were to be unfolded to me: but this expectation was disappointed by a message from Napoleon to attend him in his room. As I knew that my visit would not be one of mere ceremony, I prevailed upon my companion to accompany me, as his interpretations are always given with such aptitude and perspicuity, and besides, afford me time to arrange my answers. There was some little finesse employed in making this arrangement, as the forms of the court at Longwood are most respectfully observed by the attendants on it.

*Remarks of Napoleon upon the observations made upon his character and conduct by the English. Case of captain Wright, &c.*

On entering the room I observed the back of a sofa turned towards me; and on advancing I saw Napoleon laying at full length on it, with his left arm hanging over the upper part. The glare of light was excluded by a Venetian blind, and before him there was a table covered with books. I could distinguish among them some fine bound volumes on the French revolution. The heat of the day had occasioned him to dismantle himself of coat and waistcoat. The moment his eye met mine, he started up, and exclaimed, in English, in a tone of good humored vivacity, "Ah Warden, how do you do?" I bowed in return; when he stretched out his hand, saying, "I have got a fever." I immediately applied my hand to the wrist, and observing, both from the regularity of the pulsation and the jocular expression of his countenance, that he was exercising a little of his pleasantry, I expressed my wish that his health might always remain the same. He then gave me a gentle tap on the cheek with the back of his hand, and desired me to go into the middle of the room as he had something to say to me. I now congratulated him on the preservation of his

\* This work includes the interval, or some portion of it, between the abdication of Fontainebleau and that of Paris.



health, and complimented him at the same time on the progress he appeared to have made in the English language. "I certainly enjoy," he said, "a very good state of health, which I attribute to a rigorous observance of regimen. My appetite is such that I feel as if I could eat at any time of the day; but I am regular in my meals, and always leave off eating with an appetite: besides, I never, as you know, drink strong wines. With respect to the English language," he continued, "I have been very diligent; I now read your newspapers with ease; and must own, that they afford me no inconsiderable amusement. They are, occasionally, inconsistent, and sometimes abusive. In one paper I am called a *liar*, in another a *tyrant*, in a third a *monster*, and, in one of them, which I really did not expect, I am described as a *coward*; but it turned out, after all, that the writer did not accuse me of avoiding danger in the field of battle, or flying from an enemy, or fearing to look at the menaces of fate and fortune; it did not charge me with wanting presence of mind in the hurry of battle, and in the suspense of conflicting armies. No such thing; I wanted courage, it seems, because I did not coolly take a dose of poison, or throw myself into the sea, or blow out my brains. The editor most certainly misunderstands me; I have, at least, too much courage for that. Your papers are influenced by party principles: what one praises the other will abuse; and so vice versa. They who live in the metropolis, where they are published, can judge of passing events and transactions for themselves, but persons living at a distance from the capital, and particularly foreigners, must be at a loss to determine upon the real state of things, and the characters of public men, from the perusal of your journals." [*This is a very just remark, and will apply to the United States as well as to England.*—Ed. Nat. Reg.]

Napoleon appearing, as it were, to be speaking out, and in a humor to deliver opinions instead of confining himself to asking questions, I was determined to speak out too; and I had no doubt that I should lead him into an interesting conversation, or induce him to wish me a good day.

I accordingly replied, "I really think that you must possess more patience than my countrymen are disposed to allow you, if you really wade through all the columns that have been filled on your subject. You cannot, general, suppose for a moment, that the extraordinary events which have taken place, and of which you have formed such a prominent part, would not be considered and observed upon with great freedom by a thinking people like the English, and who have the privilege, and may they ever possess it, of speaking and writing what they think." I was proceeding in full swing and in a very patriotic way, when he thus interrupted me: "This calling of names, and these scolding epithets, only serve to amuse me; but there are observations in your papers which produce far different sensations. You have," he continued, "a writer whom I greatly admire; I believe he is of your country, a Scotchman—Macpherson, the author of *Ossian*. There is also a person of the name of Bolsham: on what subjects has he written?" I replied, "that I believed he had written an account of the reign of our excellent sovereign." "Yes," he said, "your laws permit you to write of kings, of ministers, of measures, and of one another." "Yes," I replied, "such is the privilege of Englishmen;

and, possessing the infirmities of human nature, they may sometimes abuse it. Misconception, party spirit, and perhaps factious minds, may, at times, tend to propagate and support erroneous, and even violent opinions; but the love of justice and truth forms the genuine character of an Englishman." "Nevertheless," he observed, "you appear to handle my character rather roughly; and more so, since I have been in your power." "To that opinion, general," I answered, rather quickly, "I must beg leave to address a direct negative. You have not always had the leisure to examine English publications which you enjoy at present; but I do assure you, that from the time of your becoming first consul of France to the moment when you set your foot on the deck of the *Bellerophon*, the English press has never ceased to fulminate its displeasure against you; and this without exception, for the parties who differed in every thing besides, expressed but one and the same opinion of you. This, I presume, you must have known at the time, though the vast projects that have occupied your mind, may have prevented your memory from retaining a detail of our literary offences: your official papers, however, marked their perfect acquaintance with the hostility of our journals, and returned their paragraphic missiles in every direction. You were rather angry with old England, when you ordered the *Moniteur* to call us a "nation of shopkeepers." A great commercial nation we certainly are, and may we ever remain so: for it is that commerce which has proved a fountain of resources, whose failure would have prevented even the native and irresistible bravery of Englishmen from making the late immortal additions to our national glory. But we are also a most noble minded, magnanimous and generous people; and were never known to insult a conquered enemy; nay, how often has it happened that both our sailors and our soldiers have risked their lives to save a fallen foe. Even when you had thrown away one of the brightest diadems in Europe, and had accepted a slender sceptre in Elba, you were instantly treated with comparative mildness by the more prevailing public opinions in England. And now that you are, as you choose to term it, in our power, a general feeling of a generous nature is known to be excited. Yes, sir, there are numbers who would have rejoiced to hear that you had bit the ground on the field of battle, who are now disposed to wish you every comfort that can be safely allowed in your present situation. If the Northumberland had overtaken you in a French man of war, endeavoring to make your meditated escape to America, every officer, and every sailor and soldier, would have been bravely engaged in the attempt to take, burn, sink, or destroy the ship that bore you; yet, as you have readily acknowledged, you were treated by them, during the whole of the voyage, with every gentleness, manly, and polite attention. And, if I may venture to speak of myself, I shall beg leave to add, that I was bred up in the hatred of you: nay, that no proofs of holy writ were more strongly imprinted in my mind than the truth of the then universally prevailing opinions concerning you; nevertheless, I am ready to show you every personal courtesy, to be thankful for the civilities I have received from you, and to offer you such service as I am permitted by the benevolence of the government which I serve, and may be consistent with those regulations which its political

wisdom has thought necessary to provide for the safeguard and ultimate security of your person."

I was resolved to speak my sentiments with freedom, and you may now think, my good friend, that I did not balk my resolution. I could not, indeed, forbear to defend the generous temper of Englishmen, when it received such an attack. My candid sentiments and unreserved language appeared, however, to meet my auditor's approbation, and he asked me, to my great surprise, if I remembered the history of captain Wright? I answered, "Perfectly well; and it is a prevailing opinion in England, that you ordered him to be murdered in the Temple." With the utmost rapidity of speech he replied, "For what object? Of all men he was the person whom I should have most desired to live. Whence could I have procured so valuable an evidence as he would have proved on the trial of the conspirators in & about Paris. The heads of it he himself had landed on the French coast." My curiosity was at this moment such as to be betrayed in my looks. "Listen," continued Napoleon, "and you shall hear. The English brig of war, commanded by captain Wright, was employed by your government in landing traitors and spies on the west coast of France. Seventy of the number had actually reached Paris; and, so mysterious were their proceedings, so veiled in impenetrable concealment, that, although general Ryal, of the police, gave me this information, the name or place of their resort could not be discovered. I received daily assurances that my life would be attempted, and though I did not give entire credit to them, I took every precaution for my preservation. The brig was afterwards taken near L'Orient, with captain Wright, its commander, who was carried before the prefect of the department of Morbeau, at Vannes: general Julian, then prefect, had accompanied me in the expedition to Egypt, and recognised captain Wright on the first view of him. Intelligence of this circumstance was instantly transmitted to Paris, and instructions were expeditiously returned to interrogate the crew, separately, and transfer their testimonies to the minister of police. The purport of their examination was at first very unsatisfactory; but, at length, on the examination of one of the crew, some light was thrown on the subject. He stated that the brig had landed several Frenchmen, and among them he particularly remembered one, a very merry fellow, who was called *Pichegru*. Thus a clue was found that led to the discovery of a plot, which, had it succeeded, would have thrown the French nation, a second time, into a state of revolution. Captain Wright was accordingly conveyed to Paris, and confined in the Temple; there to remain till it was found convenient to bring the formidable accessories of this treasonable design to trial. The law of France would have subjected Wright to the punishment of death; but he was of minor consideration. My grand object was to secure the principals, and I considered the English captain's evidence of the utmost consequence towards completing my object." He again and again, most solemnly asserted, that Captain Wright died in the Temple, by his own hand, as described in the *Moniteur*, and at a much earlier period than has been generally believed. At the same time, he stated, that his assertion was founded on documents which he had since examined. The cause of his inquiry arose from the visit, I think, he said, of lord Ebrington to Elba, and he added, "That no-

bleman appeared to be perfectly satisfied with the account which was given him of this mysterious business."

(Extracts to be continued.)

From the *New York Evening Post*, of the 16th April, 1817.

Yesterday came on for trial before his honor the mayor, at the court of general sessions of the peace for this city and county, an indictment found at the same court, against Isaac Roget, (the only defendant taken,) for uniting with J. B. Daulmery (of the house of Hutchinson & Daulmery) & P. Le-fevre,\* in conspiracy to defraud the underwriters. This cause from the nature of the transaction, and particularly, from the standing in society of Isaac Roget, for many years a French merchant in this city, and generally considered here a man of respectability, excited more interest than any one that has taken place for many years. The trial began at 11 o'clock, A. M. and lasted till past 4 this morning; more than 17 hours. The following are the principal facts that appeared in evidence:

That the schr. Ocean, being in France,† and up at Havre de-Grace, in December last, for Boston, and the defendant being in this city, with others here, and some persons abroad, entered into a conspiracy to make a false insurance upon her and her cargo, consisting, as they stated, of dry goods and plaster of Paris, but in reality of stones and rubbish; and actually insured \$18,000 here, \$10,000 in Boston, \$30,000 in Paris, besides other sums in London and elsewhere, and then caused her to be sunk at sea. It appeared, however, that the piece of roguery from which they calculated to derive the greatest profit, was from an ingenious deception practised upon the custom house at Havre. This deception was managed in the following manner: They first entered at the custom house, say 30 boxes of goods, amounting to \$30,000, and procured the necessary stamps upon the boxes; but, then, instead of putting the boxes on board, they only carried them to some private place, where they removed the goods into other similar boxes, provided for the purpose, and supplied their place in the stamped boxes with rubbish of the same weight; which was so ingeniously done, by splicing the ropes, &c. &c. as to elude suspicion. These boxes were then put on board the schooner as so many boxes of dry goods, with the custom house stamp, which secured them from all further inspection. Having thus succeeded with the first 30 boxes, they filled a second 30 with the same goods which had once been entered, and a second time procured the stamp of the custom house; then, a second time, they removed these boxes to some private place, where they in like manner rifled them of their genuine contents, and filling them with stones, as before, they closed them neatly up again, and shipped them on board. In this way they repeated the deception on the custom house until they had obtained its stamp upon 97 boxes of stones, and shipped them on board as dry goods. Having thus loaded the schooner, their next step was to provide for the lives of the innocent and unsuspecting crew, when

\* Commonly called Peter Favours.

† The conspiracy began a twelvemonth sooner, just before the Ocean left this country.

the vessel should go to the bottom: for which purpose they procured a clinker-built boat, sufficient to hold them all, with provisions and other necessities; and, thus equipped, they wrote to their friends in this country an account of their success, that they might do the needful, at the different insurance offices; and then set out upon their voyage.

After meeting with some rough weather, which caused them to delay the execution of their purpose, for fear of their lives, they, at length, after two abortive attempts, which failed through the vigilance and activity of the mate, succeeded in scuttling her, in a smooth sea, on the 25th of February, about 9 in the evening, in lat. 26, 30, N. and long. W. 60, 10, when they shaped their course for the nearest land, which was the Bahama Islands, distant about 500 miles, and arrived at Nassau the 3d of March.

R. H. Wolcott, the mate, who was not let into the secret, swore, that the first time the alarm was given, that the vessel was sinking, he exerted himself, contrary to the remonstrance of Favors, and succeeded in getting a sail under the bottom, by means of which they were able to clear her hold of water, so that he could examine the leak, when he found her bottom bored with auger holes, which he plugged; but, that advantage was taken of his being aloft with most of the crew, to bore others in another place, which was the cause of her sinking. But the principal witness in the cause was Lefevre himself, one of the conspirators, and acquainted with the whole transaction from its origin, through all the steps of its progress down to the present time. The testimony which this man, who discovered a great share of intelligence, gave, was so clear, so consistent, never involving himself in contradiction, or even discovering the least embarrassment, though closely and severely cross-examined by able counsel, that he commanded universal belief.

It ought to be mentioned that the person the conspirators first attempted to corrupt was one J. A. Dursseau, a Frenchman, who seems to have listened to the proposals, but, upon reflection, not only refused to be concerned, but disclosed the meditated fraud to Mr. W. Lovett, of this town, in July last, to F. Depau, and to several insurance companies in Boston. In the course of the trial, facts came out that induced strong suspicions that the defendant and some others had long been engaged in similar frauds, particularly in the sinking of the brig Mary some years ago.

The counsel in this highly interesting case were Messrs. Emmet, Hoffman, on the part of the insurance company, and Fisk, U. S. D. attorney, and Maxwell, D. A. for the state, and for the defendant, Colden and D. B. Ogden. We were not present, but understand there was a great display of bar eloquence on both sides on the occasion.

The jury retired about half past four o'clock this morning, and returned into court just after five with a verdict of GUILTY.

Mr. Roget's amiable wife and sister, together with five or six children, were present the whole time. The sight of these two highly interesting and wretched females, and one of them, Mrs. R. in a situation of all others the most affecting, surrounded too by her children, could not fail to create so powerful an effect on the minds of the court and jury, that nothing short of the most satisfactory testimony, and a due sense of the

stern obligations they were under, could have produced his conviction.

N. B. The names of others concerned with Roget, but who are absent, or not yet arrested, are, from prudential motives, concealed.

*From the New York Evening Post of the 18th April, 1817.*

Not being present at the trial of Roget, which was reported in Wednesday's paper, I could only obtain the facts from others; and though I took great pains to be correct and precise, yet I find that a few errors escaped me—some of a more trivial, others of a more material nature. For instance, the fraud is represented to have been committed at Havre-de-Grace, when it should have been at Paris, where the boxes being stamped, secured them from inspection at Havre. Second, it is stated that "in the course of the trial, facts came out that induced strong suspicions that the defendant and some others had been engaged in similar frauds, particularly in sinking the brig Mary some years ago." Here is an error in the name of the vessel alluded to; it should have been the brig Amiable Mary Ann; but I am informed that the witness, who testified respecting the Mary Ann, a Mr. Du Rosseau, testified only that D\*\*\* and B\*\*\*, named in the indictment with Roget, were concerned in that nefarious transaction, but did not go so far as to implicate him.

We understand that powerful exertions are making to get the jury who convicted, to apply to the court for a pardon. We would be the last to turn an obdurate ear to the petition of the miserable, but does not duty to the community in which we live sternly demand of us, before we give way to our feelings, to remember that the only object the law professes to have in view, when it inflicts punishment, is, to deter others by the example?

*From the New York Evening Post of the 19th April, 1817.*

This being the day allotted to sentencing persons convicted at this court of crimes or misdemeanors, Isaac Roget was accordingly expected to be put to the bar, and a large concourse of people attended to hear the law pronounced. But, in consideration of the peculiar situation of Roget's wife, sentence was postponed to the next court.

## TOBACCO.

### CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE.

*Extract from the Paris Journal Bulletin du Commerce, of January 9, 1817.*

The administration of the indirect contributions, being desirous of commencing the purchases of tobacco in leaves, which they may have occasion to make in 1817, for the supply of the royal manufactories, invite all foreign merchants, who might find it convenient to make offers, to take interest in the same.

The first purchases will take place on the 10th of February, others on the 10th of March, and successively at such times as shall be appointed, and in proportion to the wants of the service.

The administration will receive the offers of merchants, for such qualities and quantities as they shall think fit to offer them. The price and conditions of the sale shall be mentioned in a proposal on stamp paper, which the proposer shall



bind himself to maintain until after the nearest purchase, which will have been indicated. But after that epoch, he shall no longer be bound by his offer, which he will be at liberty to modify or withdraw before the subsequent purchase.

The proposals must always be accompanied with sufficient samples to represent the parcels which will be offered; and the proposers must always obligate themselves to deliver articles agreeably to the said samples—they shall even state the quantities to be delivered by them of each sample. A general sample of an entire parcel will, however, be admitted, embracing as near as possible every shade of quality, the proposers binding themselves that the whole parcel to be delivered shall answer the general sample; but, in general, it would be preferable they should circumscribe themselves within more precise terms, to avoid all uncertainty at the moment of the purchase, and all difficulty on the delivery.

The samples shall be sealed with the seal of the proposer, and the marks and number which they will bear shall be fixed in the margin of the proposal.

The general conditions must be—The tare at 12 per cent. on tobacco in hhds; that of 2 1-2, or the real tare, (should the purchaser or seller require it) on tobacco in bales; a discount, if payment be stipulated for cash: the obligation to deliver within 40 days after the sale, for the two first purchases the epoch of which is announced; and the delivery in presence of arbitrators, appointed on both sides, with power to choose a third, in case of disagreement, who shall be charged to ascertain the damages, defects or differences in the qualities, and to estimate the compensations to which the purchaser might be entitled.

Each party shall pay his own arbitrator.

The articles must always be delivered after having been entered at the Custom House, and free from all duties and charges.

The administration cannot accept of any offer of delivery but for one of the ports of Havre, Rouen, Morlaix, Dunkirk, Bordeaux and Marseilles, and for the cities of Strasburg and Lille.

Merchants who shall feel disposed to interest themselves in the purchases which the administration intend to make from commerce, must transmit their proposals and samples to a correspondent chosen by them at Paris, whom they will empower to deal with the administration, that the latter may, on occasions, contract business with them.

The proposals and samples, for the first purchase, must be delivered at latest on the 5th of February to the Secretary of the administration: each proposal shall be sealed and deposited in the box destined thereunto, by the proposer himself, or by his correspondent; and those proposals shall be opened only after the examination of all the samples presented for competition and only at the moment of pronouncing which are those to which the preference is due.

On the 10th of February, the director general of the indirect contributions will make known, at the public sitting of the Council of Administration, the articles which will have obtained the preference.

#### FOREIGN SUMMARY.

##### RUSSIA.

Mr. Pinkney, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America

to the Court of St. Petersburg, has had, on the 12th of Jan. an audience of the Emperor of Russia. His excellency was presented to their Majesties the Emperesses.

##### GREAT BRITAIN.

The ship Comet, captain Center, arrived at N. York on the 20th instant, in 36 days from Havre-de Grace. By this arrival French papers have been received to the 10th of March, with London dates to 6th of that month inclusive. The New-York Commercial Advertiser, of the 21st instant, says:—

The state of things in England has, it appears, become extremely critical and alarming. The two secret committees (appointed by the house of lords and the house of commons) have reported the result of their investigation, by which it would seem, that the spirit of disaffection which had agitated the metropolis, had spread widely over the country, and threatened an immediate and general revolution. In consequence of the facts disclosed in these reports, the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* was moved in parliament, and carried by a majority of 175. Other measures, of an energetic character, had also been adopted.

The following articles are from the New-York Gazette of the 21st inst.—

The London Courier of the 20th of February, contains two reports of the committees of secrecy, both of which were presented to the house of commons.—The general features of these reports are similar. The lords' committee express their full conviction that the designs destructive of the constitution, "have been extended, and are still extending, widely in many other parts of Great Britain."

The disaffected adopted the different forms and symbols of the French revolution; and the revolution they meditated was, if possible, more sweeping and immediate in its effects. They meant to begin by depriving every man of his landed and funded property, to declare all the land in common, and to extinguish the funds. Nor was the religion of the country to be more respected. They meant to recite profane parodies of the liturgy, or songs blaspheming the holy scriptures. One of their handbills expressed, "all constables who touch a man of us to be run thro'. No regent—no Castlereagh—off with their heads—no placemen, titlies, or inclosures—no bishops." The symbols of the revolution, the tri-colored flag and the red cap of France, were adopted here, as well as the names of the revolutionary committee; they had their committee of public safety and the conservative committee. To the soldiers they had, by a second determination, resolved to adopt the means of seduction. But the first plan and impulse was the murder of the soldiers by midnight. The report to the commons inform that "the design was by a sudden rising in the dead of the night, to surprise and overpower the soldiers in their different barracks, which were to be set on fire." Arms were procured; a large quantity of pike heads ordered; and a machine projected for clearing the streets of cavalry. The prisons were to be drained; and the murderer, and the felon, and the criminals of all descriptions, were to be let loose upon the metropolis with arms. The general rising was fixed for the 2d December.

The committee then show the intimate connexion between the clubs in London and the clubs in

the country. The commons committee do not decide what measures are necessary to be adopted; but they conclude by stating, that the dangers which exist are of such a nature, that the utmost vigilance of the government, under the existing laws, has been found inadequate to prevent them.

The ports of England are open for six months, for the importation of peas and beans, free of duty.

The bill against the seditious assemblies, had its second reading in the house of commons on the 3d of March; and bills were passed relative to the seduction of the soldiery, and concerning treason.

On the 4th of March, the house of commons received an extraordinary number of petitions for parliamentary reform. They contained nearly a million signatures. The chief part of the petitions were presented by sir Francis Baring.

An order of the prince regent in council, permits the importation of all foreign merchandise into the Isle of France, excepting cotton and woollen goods, and manufactures of iron and steel. Foreign goods are to pay a duty of two per cent. above those imported from England.

The customs produced for the month of February, 6,884l. sterling above that of the same month last year; but was 60,575l. sterling below that of 1815.

In an eloquent and animated speech in the house of commons, whilst the bill for suspending the *Habeas Corpus* was under discussion, lord Castlereagh proved the existence of danger, and asked, if on the eve of an insurrection in the capital, and in the provinces, the house wished to see the executive power compelled to stand with folded arms, without making any efforts to correct it before the explosion should overthrow the government. Was it proper to wait till blood should flow, or to prevent its effusion? The safety of the state imperiously demands this measure, and without it there exists no means of saving this country from a bloody and terrible catastrophe.

Mr. Ponsonby, in admitting the existence of the danger, of which he was convinced as a member of the secret committee, contended that the present laws were sufficient to suppress it. As a proof of it, he stated that they had been adequate to arrest the conspirators at Glasgow, as the house had been informed.—The distress of the times has produced a discontent, which leads to insurrection, but that is not a sufficient motive to suspend the *Habeas Corpus*, the grand bulwark of British liberties. It is a conspiracy of famine stirred up by malevolence.

#### NAPLES.

A Paris paper of the 2d March states that an American frigate remained before Palermo, to attend, as was believed, to the ratification of the arrangements concluded between the court of Naples and the United States.

#### ABBREVIATED SUMMARY.

**Foreign.**—A destructive fever has prevailed in Barbadoes, which has swept off many of the population and destroyed about one thousand men of the garrison; it is particularly fatal to strangers. Lord Combermere was expected from England, to assume the government of Barbadoes, and the command of the forces in the windward & leeward

islands.—A canal communication from Kingston to La Chine, by the river Rideau, has been seriously undertaken by the provincial government of Canada.—The Spanish schooner *Enrrique*, from the coast of Africa, with one hundred and eighty-five slaves, was captured on the 30th March, off the Moro, by the schooner *General Ortega*, formerly the *Huzza*, of Baltimore, captain Champlin, and sent to leeward: the Spaniards seem to be driving a pretty brisk trade in this inhuman commerce.—A third meeting of the populace took place at Spa Fields, near London, in February last: Mr. Hunt harangued them: this Mr. Hunt is not the same person as the gentleman of that name who stands so well in the literary world, but is represented as a profligate fellow: both lord Cochrane and sir Francis Burrett were invited to attend this third meeting; but the former alleged a prior engagement to be present at another meeting in a different part of the kingdom, and the latter did not deign to return a written answer to the letter addressed to him on the occasion: sir Francis declares himself opposed to the right of universal suffrage: there was very little disturbance on the occasion; but the military were paraded, and the police officers were on the alert: the windows of one of the ministerial printing offices were broken.—The prince regent of Great Britain has made a donation of 50,000l. and the marquis of Camden has relinquished his sinecure, to relieve the public distresses.—An insurrection, of no great moment, lately took place in Valencia, in Spain: gen. Elio dispersed some and took others of the rioters.—The loan which the French government has made of the English stockjobbers is only for 8 and not for 12 millions, as formerly stated: Mr. Baring takes four millions of it.—Midshipman Watts, of the U. S. 74 *Washington*, fell through the mizen top of that ship, on the 30th January last, to the deck, which occasioned his death in a few days thereafter: he was buried at Gibraltar with naval and military honors.

**Domestic.**—There are published in the state of New-York 90 newspapers, including 6 issued semi-weekly from daily offices: of these, 8 are printed daily; 8 semi-weekly; and the residue once a week.—Exclusive of about 20 companies, from which no returns were received, it appears, by an official statement, that the militia of New York consists of 97,639 infantry, 6,434 artillery, 2,807 cavalry; making, in all, 106,880 men competent to bear arms.—Great destruction of property has taken place on the Kentucky river; torrents of rain fell for 4 days and nights, swelling the river above its usual level upwards of 80 feet perpendicular, and sweeping warehouses and other things before it: the loss of tobacco and other produce has been immense.—The Albany Argus says that the federalists of Oneida and Otsego counties, in the state of New York, have resolved, in public meetings, not to nominate assembly tickets for the ensuing election, although they constitute the majority in both counties: the address of a committee on the occasion ascribes it to the fact that the administrations are now pursuing correct, or what they term federal, measures.—Gen. Root, late a member of Congress from New York, has been put in nomination to represent the county of Delaware in the General Assembly of that state; and Jabez D. Hammond, also a representative from the same commonwealth, has been no-

minated for a seat in the Senate of New York.—The hospital barracks at Pike's cantonment, near Sackett's Harbor, were destroyed by fire on the 26th of March last.—A violent tempest has been recently experienced at Sag-Harbor, Long Island: it was accompanied by a quaking of the earth, by lightning, thunder, and hail, insomuch that many persons thought the day of judgment was at hand: more than a thousand squares of glass were broken.—The shock of an earthquake was felt by a number of the inhabitants of Satauket and adjacent towns on the 29th of March, ult. at 3 o'clock in the morning.—A steam boat has performed a passage from Louisville, on the Ohio, to Natchez, on the Mississippi, in 6 days, notwithstanding that some of the machinery had twice given way, and that she had run upon a sand-bar, ran over a sawyer, and ran ashore.—Fredericktown, in Maryland, has been incorporated, and Lawrence Brengle, esq. chosen mayor.—The brig Rival, capt Scudder, cleared at Mobile, in the early part of February, for Rochelle, in France, laden with cotton: she is 140 tons burthen; and is the first vessel of any magnitude ever cleared from that place to a foreign port.—At a late mayor's court in New York, Cynthia Van Cleef obtained a verdict of 5,000 dollars damages against Wm. G. Lawrence, for defamation of her character in point of chastity. The slanderer was a school master at Brooklyn, with a wife and family dependent upon him: the young lady's character appeared to be irreproachable.—The Patriot Gen. Mina and suite left New Orleans on the 9th of March last for Galvestown, in Mexico.—Langdon Cheves, esquire, formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U. S. is at present president of a court of general sessions and common pleas in South Carolina.—The U. S. schooner Hornet, lieutenant commandant Claxton, has arrived at Charleston, in 45 days from Gibraltar.—On Sunday night the 5th inst. the mail stage was attacked between Fayetteville and Aversboro', and two trunks, belonging to Gov. Middleton, a member of Congress from South Carolina, and Dr. Christmas, were cut from the back part: two men have been committed on suspicion.—The printing office of Thomas T. Skillman, of the town of Lexington, in Kentucky, was broken open on the night of the 2d ult. and part of the types taken away; the board of trustees of that town have, much to their honor, offered a reward of 150 dollars for apprehending the perpetrators of the infamous act.—It is said that a company is forming in Philadelphia, to be called "The Philadelphia and Pittsburg Transporting Company:" it is thought that, by changing horses and drivers every ten miles and travelling night and day, the journey from Philadelphia to Pittsburg may be made in 7 days: it is computed that the expense of freight may be fixed at five cents per pound going and two cents returning.—The hon. John Randolph, who declines a re-election to Congress, has publicly expressed his intention of taking a voyage to Europe for the benefit of his health.—The Santee canal, in South Carolina, is now plentifully supplied with water; the locks are in complete order, and every thing ready for the navigation.—By a recent survey, the state of Connecticut contains upwards of 4,828 square miles, or about 3,090,000 acres; and about 54 inhabitants to each square mile.—Thomas Armstrong has been appointed a judge of the court of common pleas for the county of Philadelphia; and Nicholas Esling health officer of that port.—The U. S. brig of

war Boxer, capt. Porter, has sailed from New York for the Gulf of Mexico.—The rev. David Parker has been installed pastor of the Second Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia.—On the 2d of April, instant, as Mr. Rogers, assistant to the gaoler of Niagara county, state of New York, was returning from Black Rock early in the evening, he was attacked by two ruffians, who knocked him down, stabbed him in the breast, and cut his mouth almost from ear to ear.—An explosion of the powder mills, belonging to Mr. Bussard, of Georgetown, (D. C.) took place last week; three men were killed, and two dreadfully mangled; damage, about 5,000 dollars.—Charles D. Cooper has been appointed secretary of state for the commonwealth of New York, in the place of Robert Tillotson, removed.—Gen. Erastus Root has been appointed postmaster at Delhi, in the state of New York.—The American Academy of Arts and Sciences at Boston, have lately elected De Witt Clinton a member of their Society.—The vice president of the U. States has returned to New York from Albany: prior to his leaving the latter place Mr. Tompkins and lady gave a splendid entertainment to about 450 ladies and gentlemen.—A letter from Bangor, in the District of Maine, dated the 4th inst. says there was then snow there in the woods three feet deep on a level, and that it continued to freeze hard every night.

#### EDITOR'S CABINET.

*Riot at New Orleans.*—There has been a riot at New Orleans, which has been strangely exaggerated by some publications in the newspapers. It appears to have originated in a private quarrel between the captain of a French, and the captain of an English, vessel. One man was murdered in the affray; and, the civil authorities being incompetent to the preservation of the public peace, the United States' troops were called in, at whose approach the rioters precipitately fled: a few of them, however, were arrested, and will, no doubt, meet with condign punishment. We have been much surprised to see a very ludicrous account of this affair published in some respectable newspapers, wherein it is represented that the consternation and uproar were so great, that every man in New Orleans had a sword by his side and pistols in his pocket! The most serious point of view in which the riot is to be regarded, is in relation to the influence it may have on the trade to that port: but the functionaries of that city will assuredly make such an example of the offenders as to convince foreigners and others resorting there, that such an occurrence will not hereafter be likely to happen. As a committee has been appointed to investigate particulars, we forbear to insert any thing further on the subject until we receive their report. The idea that the general government is any way implicated in the event seems to be wholly without foundation.

*Appointments to office.—Republican or Federal?*—Two of the newspapers of this metropolis have



recently contained some dissertations concerning the appointment of party politicians to office. This circumstance excites us to express our own sentiments on that head; which we offer for just as much as they may be worth.

Neither sound policy nor an equitable administration of public affairs can justify a president in embittering a great portion of the community against the government, by adopting a rule of appointment which would wholly exclude that portion from offices of honor and profit. The essential maxim proper to be adhered to in the selection of persons suitable for public stations is, that the party selected must have done some service to the nation, or, by his capacity, be capable of rendering useful services to the republic. The great danger to our republican institutions does not lie in the choice of men for situations in the government from either the one or the other of the great prevailing parties among us; for there are very patriotic and able men to be found in both. What is most to be apprehended is, that a president should choose the officers of his administration from considerations of private acquaintance and personal attachment to himself. Should he do that, merit will, nine times in ten, be kicked out of doors, and a slavish devotion to the man would supersede devotion to the public. With respect to appointments, private friends should be placed precisely on a level with other citizens. If they have talents, promote them according to those talents: if they have not, let personal attachments be rewarded by personal attentions; but do not draw upon the public purse to discharge the debts of private gratitude.

*The News.*—The foreign intelligence, which will be found under the head of our "Foreign Summary" in this number of the *National Register*, is unusually interesting. The leading article is that which informs us of the suspension of the writ of *Habeas Corpus* in Great Britain. As some of our readers may not fully comprehend the effect of this suspension, we will here briefly state the nature of the writ itself, and the consequence of withholding it from the subject.

The writ of *Habeas Corpus* is used, in judicial proceedings, for several purposes: but the great use of it is to relieve the person when imprisoned for unjust and unlawful causes. When it is employed for this purpose, it is called a writ of *Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum*, is directed to the party detaining another, commanding him to produce the body of the prisoner, with the day and cause of his caption and detention, *ad faciendum, subjiciendum, et recipiendum*, to do, submit to, and receive, whatsoever the judge or court awarding such writ shall consider in that behalf. This writ

grew out of the tyranny of former kings of England; and, being a writ of right, it issues as a matter of course when applied for in the proper manner. When the person is brought into court, or before the judge, if the cause of his confinement is ascertained to be illegal, he is discharged; if it is a case admitting bail, he is bailed; but if not bailable, he is remanded to prison to take his trial according to law. This process of *Habeas Corpus* is held in Great Britain as a sacred right, and an act of parliament, passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of Charles II. in relation to it, is regarded, by Englishmen in particular, as almost another *Magna Charta* of the kingdom. Now, in England, it is well known, there are many men of great talents and high standing, among the nobility as well as the wealthy commoners, sternly attached to the liberty of the subject, and who, when that liberty should be endangered, although they might not highly esteem the private character of the individual oppressed, would not fail to vindicate his rights, and especially by means of the writ of *Habeas Corpus*, in the courts of justice as well as elsewhere: consequently, the crown would find it almost impracticable, whilst that writ was freely allowed, to seize upon and keep in confinement those popular leaders who might be phnoxious to the royal authority. But the writ being suspended, individuals may be arrested, thrown into prison, and there detained, till the king's ministers shall see fit to release them. This will serve to intimidate such men as Mr. Cobbett, Mr. Hunt, and lord Cochrane; and, if they are not intimidated, the jails will open their doors and their voices will be silenced. The question is now fairly at issue between the sovereign, backed by the military, and the people.—The former, we fear, must prevail. The British constitution appears to be in its last agony, and is apparently about to resolve itself into an absolute monarchy.

The reader will remark, that the most terrific account is given, by the reports of the secret committees in the British parliament, of certain diabolical intentions of the people with respect to the military, to property in general, &c. This is, probably, great exaggeration; but it is extremely artful in the ministry: it tends to inflame the soldiery against their unarmed fellow subjects, and thus secure their fidelity to the government; and it will induce the owners of land, the stockholders, &c. by interested motives, to take side with the king against the degraded and impoverished part of the community.

Any wishes that we might express on the occasion would be fruitless. Whilst we deprecate every thing like anarchy, we should be pleased to see in Great Britain a rational reformation of abu-

ses. From the scenes now passing there, the people of the United States may take a salutary warning. Let them bear in mind, that Great Britain has reached her present unhappy condition by *gradual* encroachments of the crown on popular rights, which encroachments were effected when the people were lulled into security by the flatteries and the artifices of men in power.

*Presidential Tour.*—It is now quite certain that President Monroe has determined to commence, in a few weeks, a tour, northward, along the whole Atlantic border to the remotest public post; thence to Plattsburg, &c. and, by Sackett's Harbor, on to Detroit, whence he will return to the City of Washington across the country. "The objects of the president are (says the National Intelligencer of the 23d instant) exclusively of a public nature: to inspect the forts, navy yards, and other public institutions; to view their positions; to investigate their economy, system and relative utility; to inquire into the expenditures of public money that have been made on particular objects, whether advantageously or otherwise, &c. and to ascertain what further works may be proper and appropriations necessary to their completion. To aid him in these inquiries, the president will be attended by the chief of the corps of engineers, general SWIFT, by the general officer commanding at each station, and by a naval officer, when their respective services shall be necessary." The president proposes to travel without his family, and without attendants, as a private citizen; and it is announced that he will decline all public or private invitations which hospitality or respect for his public character might induce, on account of their interfering with the design of the journey. It is also understood that the president has it in contemplation, after his return to the seat of government, to take a view of the Chesapeake Bay, and, on a future occasion, to extend his visits, for like purposes, to the western and southern states.

Whilst we wish President Monroe, on this intended tour, all possible health and recreation, and hope it may be useful to the nation, we cannot, frankly speaking, approve of it. 1. The health of a man is more exposed in a long journey, through varying climates, than if he remained stationary, or nearly so; and the personal health of so high an officer as president is an object of great political interest with the community. 2. By this proposed visit the responsibility of subordinate agents will be lessened, and it is vitally important that every officer of the administration should be held strictly responsible for the execution of the duties confided to him. 3. A president will not, we apprehend, be enabled to ac-

quire, by a mere bird's eye view of fortifications, &c. more accurate information, whereon to ground recommendations to Congress, than he could by the reports of engineers, &c. made to him, or to the proper departments, at Washington. 4. The provident superintendence of public affairs by the president is, by our constitution, made to extend to *all* the objects of government; and they cannot all be properly attended to, unless he remains stationary at the seat of the general government, or within a day or two's ride of it. There are functions, admitting of but little intermission, to be performed even at the city of Washington, which he cannot execute at the eastern extremity of Maine or at Detroit.

We make not the least question of the purity of President Monroe's intentions on the occasion; but government is a type of the human system; the executive is the brain, or sensorium, and information of circumstances which affect the extremities, should be communicated to the head through the established organs of the body politic, and the head would be thus enabled to give impulse and suitable motion to the extremities. If a man's head should take leave of his shoulders, it would be very inconvenient to his body, and the doctors, we presume, would pronounce it *unusual*, if not dangerous. There is no precedent for such a journey, except in the case of General Washington, and his, we believe, was more a jaunt of pleasure than any thing else. Neither Mr. Adams, Mr. Jefferson, nor Mr. Madison, pursued the course now intended by President Monroe. We do not, however, disapprove of it so much from the want of precedent, as from the reasons which we have expressed.

#### GRAND CANAL.

*Thomas Jefferson to De Witt Clinton.*

*Monticello, April 14, 1817.*

DEAR SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of March 27, of the very valuable treatise on inland navigation, and of the several reports on the junction of the waters of lakes Erie and Champlain with those of the Hudson. The conception is bold and great, and the accomplishment will be equally useful. The works of Europe in that line shrink into insignificance in comparison with these. Having no facts to go on, but those reported by the commissioners, we cannot but concur in their opinion of practicability, and with a confidence proportioned to their known abilities and accuracy. The question of expense is perhaps less certain, as well from the hidden obstacles not known until the earth is opened, as from other circumstances which cannot be foreseen. But no probable degree of expense can transcend that of its utility. The prospect of the future face of America's magnificent indeed; but, for the revolutionary generation, it is to be enjoyed in contemplation only. With my thanks for these communications, and every wish for the success of these great and honorable enterprises, accept the assurance of my great respect & esteem.